

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02530 081853 Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

RSR-01 /191 W

----- 007056

R 081430 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7459

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E O 11 NA

TAGS/ PFOR, BE, A

SUBJ: JAPANESE FONMIN VISIT TO BELGIUM

1. SUMMARY: BELGIANS VIEW FONMIN OHIRA' S VISIT TO BELGIUM AS STEP TOWARD BETTER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN BUT LEARNED NOTHING OF JAPANESE VIEWS ABOUT JAPAN' S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH EUROPE AND US. BELGIANS REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND TRADE LIBERALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING FONOFF FE COUNSELOR BLANCQUAERT, HOUR AND HALF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND BELGIAN FONMINS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY 4 FOCUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY UPON TOPICS OF GENERAL INTERNATIONAL INTEREST EXCEPT FOR BRIEF EXCHANGE ABOUT PROBLEM OF JAPANESE ELECTRONIC EXPORTS TO BENELUX. OHIRA SEMED CONCERNED MAINLY WITH POOR IMAGE EUROPEANS HOLD OF JAPAN, WHICH HE ASCRIBED TO PAST JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND TRADE POLICIES THAT HE SAID WERE BEING RETHOUGHT AS RESULT OF INCREASED JAPANESE INTEREST IN INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR WHICH BOTH INCREASED FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN JAPAN AND INCREASED TRADE WERE NECESSARY.

3. BLANCQUAERT THOUGHT THAT, BESIDES SELLING JAPAN TO EUROPE AND TANAKA GOVERNMENT TO JAPANESE, OHIRA VISIT REFLECTED NEED TO ASCERTAIN HOW JAPAN COULD RELATE TO EUROPE AS ENTITY AND, WITHIN THAT CONTEXT, WITH BELGIAN AND OTHER EC COUNTRIES INDIVIDUALLY AS PRELUDE TO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS LATER THIS YEAR. BELGIANS WERE NEVERTHELESS UNABLE TO ELICIT JAPANESE VIEWS, ESPECIALLY ABOUT EAST- WEST DETENTE AND ANY POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DETENTE ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

4. BLANCQUAERT SAID VAN ELSLANDE STRESSED THAT DETENTE WU BARELY OFF GROUND WITH ALMOST EVERYTHING CONCRETE YET TO BE REALIZED, BUT THAT GOB WOULD ACCEPT NOTHING FOR SAKE OF SHOW. MEANWHILE, PARIS SUMMIT WAS INDICATION OF CLEAR INTENT OF EC COUNTRIES TO PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION, BOTH OF WHICH IT WAS GOB POLICY TO PROMOTE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT. JAPANESE, HOWEVER, HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THIS PROCESS AS LONG AS BOTH THEY AND EC NINE HAVE SAME FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES, NAMELY INCREASED AND FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND COOPERATION IN ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. BELGIANS ALSO EXPLAINED TO OHIRA THEIR LATEST PROPOSAL FOR CEILING ON JAPANESE ELECTRONIC EXPORTS TO BENELUX, WHICH WAS RENTED AT THE HAGUE PREVIOUS WEEK. OHIRA PROMISED TO EXPEDITE JAPAN' S RESPONSE.

6. FOLLOWING TALKS, FONMINS SIGNED BELGO- JAPANESE CULTURAL AGREEMENT (COPY OF WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN RECEIVED) AND VAN ELSANDE HOSTED PROFORMA DINNER.

7. ACCORDING TO BLANCQUAERT, IN SPITE OF ONE- SIDED NATURE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVERSATIONS, BELGIANS FELT VISIT WAS USEFUL STEP IN LONG PROCESS OF DEVELOPING BETTER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT BELGIANS WERE NOT YET CONVINCED JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND TRADE REFORMS WOULD BE MEANINGFUL. HE SAID THAT FRENCH HAD TOLD OHIRA HABITS AND ATTITUDES HAD TO BE CHANGED AS WELL AS LAWS, AND THAT BELGIANS ARE INCLINED TO AGREE.

STRAUSZ- HUPE

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, BE, A
To: BONN
EA
GENEVA
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THE HAGUE

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